



Borough of
Royal Leamington Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1963

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts

Leamington Spa

A. TOMES LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET

1964

38, HOLLY WALK,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

July, 1964.

To the Council of the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report upon the health of the district for the year 1963. The population increase of 590 includes a natural increase of 392. Of the total of 936 births 99, or 10.7 per cent., were illegitimate.

Just over half the total deaths again were due to diseases of the heart or blood vessels. Cancer was second in importance causing 17 per cent. of deaths. The site of one third of all cancers in males was the lung and one must again look among the ranks of cigarette smokers for the majority of those thus stricken.

Bronchitis and various other respiratory infections rank third in importance with 63 deaths or roughly one ninth of the whole.

There was a high figure for infectious disease notifications. When allowance has been made for 435 cases of measles and 17 of Whooping Cough, the picture looks more favourable. One must be frank, however, and admit to some concern at the notification of 13 Dysentery and 26 Food Poisoning cases. Certainly there must have been others which escaped detection. Therefore the Council's aim to improve standards of food hygiene is justifiable and necessary. Reference will be made elsewhere to the occurrence of Typhoid Fever in five persons and to the unusual record of Typhus Fever, a single importation from the Orient.

A serious increase was thought to have occurred in the number of unsatisfactory houses let in lodgings with overcrowding or inadequate sanitary accommodation. Owing to language difficulties and multiple occupation, control proved difficult and the Council resolved to appoint an additional public health inspector during 1964 so that this side of the department's work could receive more detailed attention.

A full account is given elsewhere of the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Actual adulteration now appears to be rare. There are still many instances where articles are kept too long in stock and deteriorate in quality before sale. There are also too many articles offered for sale which either have optimistic and misleading labels or appear to be deficient in main ingredients. It is sometimes pleaded that there is no legal standard for certain articles of food but specifications can scarcely be devised for every edible compound. It is amazing how many articles seem to find a market in the absence either of real nutritional value or palatability when there is no lack of reputable and reliable products.

Your inspectors again received a number of complaints of noise nuisance and several of these required considerable time for their investigation. The Health Department is shortly due to remove to temporary offices where no facilities will exist for disinfection of infected articles or cleansing of persons.

In conclusion I have pleasure in thanking the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their support of and interest in my work and to many other Councillors for acts of kindness and encouragement. I have also to acknowledge the co-operation and help of Mr. A. J. Smith and his colleagues throughout the year as well as that of other departments.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

Medical Officer of Health :

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

K. D. YOUNG, O.B.E., B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., T.D.D.,
D.P.H.

(to November, 1963)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

Borough Shops Act Inspector :

A. J. SMITH, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.I.S.A.A.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

Deputy Borough Shops Act Inspector :

F. C. HILLS, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

K. G. RAPLEY, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

R. W. CHADD, M.A.P.H.I.

General Assistant :

J. F. BLOOMFIELD

Clerks :

A. H. STALWORTH

Mrs. K. M. TAVINOR (part-time)

*S. BUCKLEY, Miss B. GIBBONS-WARD

*(members of L.H.A. Clerical Staff with part of time allocated to
services of Joint Sanitary Committee, M.O.H.'s Office).

Public Analysts :

R. K. CHALMERS, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

C. N. GRANGE, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Borough of Royal Leamington Spa

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

*Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1963	...	...	43,540
Area of Borough	...	...	2,875 acres
Public open spaces	...	...	126.42 acres
Product of Id. rate	...	...	£2,857/14/5
Total number of permanent dwellinghouses and flats, 31/3/1963	...	...	12,482
Birth Rate (Crude)	...	...	21.4
Birth Rate (Corrected)	...	...	20.5
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	16.8
Death Rate (Crude)	...	...	12.5
Death Rate (Corrected)	...	...	12.7
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes	...	— —
Death Rate of Infants under 1 years of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	17.1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	17.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	10.1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
,, ,, Anterior Poliomyelitis (all ages)	...	...	—

B. LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES (WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

Infant Welfare Centres.—The following Centres are held within the Borough :—

4, Hamilton Terrace	...	Thursdays and Fridays, 2 p.m.
Community Centre, Kingsway	... ..	Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Crown Way, Lillington	...	Thursdays and Fridays, 2 p.m.

Local enquiries regarding Home Help, After-care, Health Visiting, Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Services to Area Health Officer, 38, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa ('Phone 27284/5). National Welfare Foods are distributed at numerous official and voluntary distribution points in the Borough. Details of these have been publicly advertised and are made known to those attending welfare centres.

Ambulance facilities.—The County Council's Ambulance Depot at Montague Road, Warwick (Telephone No. Warwick 42386), also serves the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa.

Hospital services.—Maternity cases are admitted to the Cay Block of the Warneford Hospital. Tuberculosis patients may be admitted at Hertford Hill Sanatorium and mental illness is treated at the Central Hospital, Hatton. Beds for geriatric and chronic patients are available at the Heathcote hospital, formerly an isolation hospital.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.—The Town's water is taken in part from deep wells or boreholes and in part by abstraction from the River Leam. River water which is first stored in the impounding reservoir at Willes Meadow, is filtered and chlorinated and frequent analyses are made.

1. The waters are of good quality and hard. Iron deposits or tastes due to algae have been avoided by special measures.

2. Bacteriological examinations are made of the raw and filtered river waters weekly. Bacteriological examinations of the well waters are not made before chlorination and all tests have been satisfactory. Chemical analysis is made

of all well water monthly and of the raw and filtered river water weekly. A specimen analysis will follow later in this section.

3. The water is not plumbo-solvent and contains no excess of any metallic element.

4. Chlorination plants, installed at sources of supply, have operated satisfactorily. No contamination has been reported. After repairs mains are isolated, sterilized and flushed out.

5. 12,759 houses in the town now have an internal piped supply serving 43,540 persons. There are now no houses without an internal water supply.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF RIVER WATERS

Water analysis results expressed in parts per million.

Received on : 13th November, 1963.

From : C. O. Innes Jones, Esq.

Description : U.F.C. 1005. Unfiltered River Water.

F.C. 1005 Filtered River Water.

Appearance : U.F.C. Very slightly turbid, few large particles.

F.C. Brown, many large particles.

		<i>U.F.C.</i>	<i>F.C.</i>
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	0.09	0.008
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	0.28	0.2
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	62.5	67.5
Nitrate Nitrogen	... ..	1.4	1.6
Oxygen absorbed from perman- ganate at 27° C. in 4 hours		2.7	1.7
Total Solids dried at 100° C.		750	695
Nitrite Nitrogen	... ..	0.02	0
pH	... ..	7.6	7.29
Free Chlorine	... ..	—	0.2
Hardness	{ Temporary	... 185	165
	{ Permanent	... 315	325
	{ Total	... 500	490
Radioactivity	... ..	—	—
Electrical Conductivity at 20° C.	... ..	927	907
		micromhos.	micromhos.
Lead	... ..	Absent	Absent
Copper and Zinc	... Less than	0.05	0.05
Dissolved Carbon Dioxide	...	3.0	7.0
Alkalinity as Carbonate	...	146.0	127.5

(Signed) Bostock, Hill & Rigby,
Public Analysts.

Swimming Baths.—The purification plant has operated satisfactorily and analyses were made from time to time.

Total number of swimmers (1963)	...	229,453
Weekly average (summer)	... ..	5,591
„ (winter)	... ..	3,139

Scavenging.—The destructor plant handled this year 15,392 tons 18 cwt. of refuse as compared with 14,592 tons in 1962. A regular weekly collection for private householders has been maintained.

Very little refuse is now burnt owing to the age and condition of your destructor. The main amount is reduced in bulk by the new Gondard pulveriser before being taken away by lorries for tipping. It stands to reason that economies in tip space also must result from this method of treatment. The proportions of paper and fly ash are so high in the crude refuse collected that there is little or no chance of making a saleable end product with value as a fertilizer.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1956

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1956	...	—	17	—	39	—	1
1957	...	—	6	—	47	18	8
1958	...	—	8	—	31	—	2
1959	...	—	49	—	22	—	2
1960	...	—	49	—	20	3	8
1961	...	—	13	—	13	—	1
1962	...	—	7	—	4	—	6
1963	...	—	—	5	—	—	25

Measles.—This was an epidemic year with 435 notifications received. No death occurred but a five-year-old boy developed Encephalitis as a post-infectious complication.

Diphtheria.—Again no case has been notified in the borough. The disease still retains its virulence and the local health authority pays strict attention to the continuing need for immunisation.

Whooping Cough.—The year's total was again small with 17 notifications.

Smallpox.—No case of smallpox occurred. The public has become more conscious now of the new epidemic possibilities which arise from air travel. Vaccination has been in more demand than for many years past. From time to time the department receives notice of persons arriving in the town who have either come from areas abroad where smallpox is endemic or have become actual contacts while en voyage. The policy is to visit all such persons and advise them what to do in the event of illness. They are also requested to notify proposed changes of residence during the possible incubation period and most, in practice, do so.

The Ministry of Health has restated the national policy which remains in favour of routine vaccination of all infants except those with known contra-indications. The procedure is, however, advised at a somewhat later stage than formerly.

TUBERCULOSIS

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Transfers into District				Deaths			
	Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	6	3	3	5	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—

		1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cases	...	45	43	42	38	65	25	46
Deaths	...	17	22	19	11	24	26	18

		1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Cases	...	42	30	53	68	57	73	98
Deaths	...	6	12	4	4	6	6	5
		1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Cases	...	57	66	54	46	36	21	17
Deaths	...	4	2	2	2	3	1	1

B.C.G. vaccine may be given to two groups :—

(i) *School Leavers.*

Children in their 13th year are offered vaccination if negative reactors to a skin test (Heaf Test).

(ii) *Special risk workers.*

e.g. medical students, hospital nurses, etc.

The district figures are now merged in those for the central area but the work done at High or Grammar Schools within your district was as follows :—

(a) Number given Heaf Tests	...	196
(b) Number positive	...	34
(c) Negative reactors vaccinated	...	151

Two positive reactors were given follow-up examinations and X-ray films showed the lungs to be free from active disease. The discrepancy between column (a) and the sum of columns (b) plus (c) is due to absence from school upon the day of reading tests and vaccination.

Tuberculosis.—The 1962 figures were the lowest ever recorded and it is therefore good to find even lower totals at the end of 1963.

BCG vaccination of children has continued both for contacts of the disease and 13-year-old scholars.

15 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for treatment at a Sanatorium and 15 were discharged.

The Miniature Mass Radiography Unit again made regular visits to Hamilton House, on the third Monday of each month and examined patients referred for investigation by local doctors. Since the Clinic here is shortly to be closed so that Hamilton House may be demolished the unit will move to the Pump Room Gardens.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

Where elderly, sick or infirm persons are found to be living in neglected and insanitary conditions and are not obtaining proper care or attention the Council has authorised the Medical Officer of Health to

take action on its behalf by application before a magistrate or a court of summary jurisdiction for the removal of the said person to a hospital or institution.

Case No. 1. Mrs. B—— S—— (74). This woman was urgently referred by her doctor as lying ill in lodgings from which she had notice to quit; stated to be a widow and subject to drop attacks. When first seen was under the influence of drugs. Hospitalization pointless as four earlier admissions had ended in refusal of treatment and discharge against advice. A diagnosis of senility and alcoholism had been made on the last such occasion. Contact was made with her married daughter who refused to have any further part in the matter stating that her mother was a heavy whisky drinker and had nearly broken up her home. When seen again the mental condition was clearly abnormal and a psychiatrist was called in to see her. Admission to the Central Hospital followed upon a Section 25 Order.

Case No. 2. Miss A—— R——. An elderly retired nurse. She had diabetes in addition to heart and bronchial trouble. Latterly had been neglecting herself and became careless of her dress and appearance in public. Insanitary conditions were found at her home and evidence of prolonged intemperance. In the absence of her co-operation it was necessary to confer with her doctor and apply to the Court for compulsory removal order.

Case No. 3. Miss D—— (77), had lived for some years in a home for the elderly. She became mentally confused, incontinent and dirty in her habits; had no known relatives. The case was referred to her own doctor with a view to her admission to a geriatric unit in hospital.

Case No. 4 Mr. J—— C—— (86). This old man was cared for only by a mentally sub-normal son in his late fifties with the aid of the district nurse. He had always refused to go to hospital but recently was so stiff and weak that the support of two persons at least was necessary to get him safely to and from an outside W.C. An ambulance was called and he was removed to hospital apparently unaware of his surroundings.

Case No. 5. Mr. L—— (60). Reported by his doctor as having a skin rash this man was self employed as a jobbing builder and lived alone in a large dilapidated house over a shop. He had neglected his house and person allowing rubbish and filth to accumulate. He was found to be lousy and was disinfested. The Public Health Inspector supervised the cleaning of the house. A sister undertook to provide a daily hot meal.

MORTUARY

Part-time attendant is Mr. H. Barnett. 169 bodies were received for post mortem examination. Improvement of the mortuary has been made and additional equipment obtained.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Milk.—The ten samples of milk, which failed the tests of keeping quality, were all of a Tuberculin Tested designation. Most or all of the failures arose where retailers exposed milk for sale in vending machines without having

properly explored or understood the care and hygiene of such machines. As a result they fail to comply with the conditions under which they hold a licence.

Ice Cream.—Nearly all the registered premises in the Borough are concerned only with sales and storage. It is regrettable that more than one in eight of the samples were of unsatisfactory grade. This decline in standards was due partly to itinerant vendors based outside the district and partly to foreign traders within the boundaries. Full co-operation was obtained from officers of neighbouring authorities in investigating the reasons for the bad samples but it was more difficult to make progress where differences of language, customs or standards served as a barrier to understanding.

Contraventions.—Although not many letters of warning were sent, the breaches of food hygiene regulations made it necessary to prosecute successfully four traders for contraventions of Part IV of the 1960 regulations. In addition seven prosecutions were taken under Section Two of the 1955 Act ; in six cases fines were imposed and the other case was dismissed.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

SECTION 31

Tuberculous Milk Investigations.—No Routine Milk samples were submitted for Biological Examination during the Year 1963.

HOUSING, 1963

Number of houses built in town during 1963 :—

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	—
(b) By Private Enterprise	...	...	202

Houses converted into two or more houses or flats :	...	Houses	11
		into Flats	24

The number of houses owned by the Corporation is	3,535
The number of Prefabricated Bungalows is	... 113
Purchased properties	... ... 175

Typhus Fever.—The receipt of this notification upon 19th June, 1963 was a unique and startling incident. It related to a 33-year-old Indian who felt unwell while travel-

ling across India to join a plane at New Delhi on 8th June, 1963. He arrived at London Airport early next day and was driven in a private hire car to Leamington where he soon became ill and took to bed. Although there were some 16 persons living in the two houses concerned, there was little contact and the premises were fortunately maintained in a clean condition. The rooms used by the patient were disinfected as were the hospital bed and bedding. Some sheets had, however, already been sent from home to a public laundry and the hire car, later disinfected, had been used by other persons since 9th June. The agglutination titres were reported as :—

Proteus OX2	...	+ 1/50
Proteus OXK	...	Less than 1/25
Proteus OX19	...	+ 1/1600

and presumptive of Louse Borne Typhus. The patient was, however, quite free of lice or other vermin and recovered in hospital. All contacts were examined for rashes or vermin and reports made to the Ministry of Health as required by appropriate regulations.

Typhoid Fever.—After remaining blank since 1947 this column of the prevalence table shows five cases which is the highest figure recorded in a single year since the notifications were made in 1940. The number was attributable to two small and separate outbreaks.

(a) A patient in a local chronic hospital took ill about the 10th August, 1963 and was confined to bed from the 14th. *S. Typhi* was isolated from a blood culture on 22nd August. There were a number of other patients in the same ward, many of whom had received visitors from outside. This patient was removed to Isolation Hospital where he died on 25th August. It was necessary to examine urine and stool specimens from the kitchen and nursing staff and from several fellow patients. A carrier was identified among the latter group as infected with *S. Typhi* Vi-phage Type A, similar to the strain taken from the deceased patient before his death. Negative results were obtained from examination of the milk and water supplies and the drainage system. A suspicious blood test result led to the isolation of another patient but he was cleared by further tests. The proved carrier occupied a bed adjacent to the original patient whom he had assisted with meals. He was not aware of any previous infection but had in the past been to India. His carrier state cleared up with treatment in hospital.

The investigation proved a most laborious affair as it involved 31 ward staff, 14 kitchen staff and 10 patients ; many of these people were on holiday at the time. The Deputy M.O.H. and Public Health Inspector worked tirelessly to identify the carrier.

(b) A notification was received from Warwick Hospital on 16th December that a 4½-year-old Indian girl patient admitted from an address in Leamington Spa ten days previously was found to have Typhoid Fever.

A public health inspector at once visited the household and obtained details of eleven other persons there resident. Three faecal specimens were obtained from each person and two further cases of Typhoid Fever were thus discovered and both were admitted forthwith to Whitley Isolation Hospital. One of these, an eight-month-old male infant, was found to be in the early stages of actual infection and responded well to treatment which fortunately could be started right at the commencement of this disease. The other, a University Student, was found to be a symptomless carrier and was also detained in hospital for special treatment. This man gave a history of previous intestinal illness and had been a close contact of both infected children. None of the members of the household were employed in connection with food or the catering trade. Local disinfection was carried out.

This was judged to be a domestic outbreak caused by a carrier whose original infection probably took place while in India before he came to this country eighteen months previously in order to study at a University.

Information was exchanged with the City Health Departments of Birmingham and Coventry in both of which the carrier made contacts.

Further checks were made to ensure that no new infection arose in the household. The only matter then causing anxiety was the question of the return to a crowded household of any one of the three infected persons if a carrier state should persist. In this matter it was necessary to work closely with the family doctors concerned. Fortunately all three ceased to excrete bacteria. A prolonged follow-up series of tests is in progress.

Thanks are due to the health inspectors who made prompt and time consuming investigations in both of these outbreaks, visiting homes, schools and workplaces and obtaining information and/or specimens from scores of people and conveying these to the laboratory in Coventry.

The strain of organism was identified in all three patients as a degraded Vi strain, Type IT24 and it was, therefore, quite separate from the August outbreak recorded above. It is fitting to record the invaluable help of Dr. J. E. M. Whitehead and his laboratory staff who examined hundreds of specimens in connection with these two events.

REPORT OF
THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year ending December 31st, 1963

Summary of 525 complaints received :—

Housing	...	...	...	...	...	79
Unsound food, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	64
Blocked drains	...	...	...	...	...	105
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	27
Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	16
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	7
Noise	...	...	...	...	...	15
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	125
Other pests, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	63
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	24

Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961.—113 informal notices and 62 abatement notices were served under these Acts, the majority requiring the owner to remedy housing defects. Altogether 57 notices were complied with informally and 73 after the service of formal notices.

Summary of visits and inspections, etc. :—

Inspections of food premises	...	...	...	...	468
Inspections of factories	...	...	...	...	31
Inspections of houses-let-in-lodgings	...	...	...	...	124
Housing inspections	...	...	...	...	1,429
Drainage inspections	...	...	...	...	352
Visits re accumulations	...	...	...	...	67
Visits re Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	435
Visits re Shops Act	...	...	...	...	52
Visits re Noise Abatement Act	...	...	...	...	24
Visits re Merchandise Marks Act	...	...	...	...	87
Visits re rodent control	...	...	...	...	70
Visits re infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	196
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	290
Ineffectual visits	...	...	...	...	406
Visits re sampling of food, etc.	...	...	...	...	444
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	141
Samples taken for bacteriological examination :—					
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	124
Milk (Special Designations)	...	...	...	...	194
Water—Swimming Bath	...	...	...	...	32
Therapeutic Pool	...	...	...	...	29
Paddling Pool	...	...	...	...	27
Others	...	...	...	...	77

HOUSING

In March, the Bath Place Compulsory Purchase Order which had been the subject of a Public Inquiry in the previous year, was confirmed without modification. No procedural action has been taken in respect of the Augusta Place Clearance Area as the owner of the houses has agreed to sell them to the Council. Also in March the Holly Street Clearance Area was represented.

In February, in order to speed up action in respect of the houses-let-in-lodgings in the borough of which there are believed to be about 850, it was decided to augment the staff by one additional district inspector. At the end of the year no appointment had been made. Progress in this field was consequently slower than had been hoped owing to limited staff available.

Action under Section 42, Housing Act, 1957

Number of houses in respect of which official representations were made	...	...	...	...	6
Number of unfit houses in respect of which Clearance Orders or C.P.O.'s were confirmed	...	...	...	...	7
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	53

Action under Sections 16, 17 and 28, Housing Act, 1957 and Section 25, Housing Act, 1961

Number of houses in respect of which official representations were made	...	...	...	...	16
Number of demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	27
Number of closing orders made	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	25
Number of unfit houses made fit after acceptance of undertakings	...	...	...	...	12

Action under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957

Number of parts of buildings in respect of which official representations were made	...	...	...	...	22
Number of closing orders made	...	...	...	...	9
Number of unfit parts of buildings made fit after acceptance of undertakings	...	...	...	...	1

Action under Section 9, Housing Act, 1957

Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	10
Number of formal notices served	...	...	...	...	16
Number of formal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	13

Houses-let-in-lodgings

Number of notices served to abate overcrowding	...	20
Number of notices served to execute works	...	19

ACTION TAKEN UNDER HOUSING ACTS SINCE 3rd NOVEMBER, 1955

Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	855
Houses closed (not including houses now demolished)						30
Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...		62
Houses not yet demolished in Clearance Areas					...	25
Demolition orders made but houses not yet demolished	...	...	...	...	...	61

Prosecutions

The owner of a house-let-in-lodgings was fined £6 for permitting overcrowding in two rooms. For occupying a house in respect of which a demolition order had become operative the owner was fined £3.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Sampling.—141 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst who certified 122 to be genuine and 19 to be unsatisfactory. Details of samples taken and the results of their analyses are shown in the accompanying table :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>For-</i> <i>mal</i>	<i>Infor-</i> <i>mal</i>	<i>Gen-</i> <i>uine</i>	<i>Un-</i> <i>satis-</i> <i>factory</i>
Beverages
Buttered scones, etc.
Canned and dairy cream
Canned meat and meat paste
Cheese and cheese spread
Condiments, etc.
Dehydrated vegetables
Fish and fish cakes, fish paste
Flour and flour confectionery
Fruit and dried fruit
Ground almonds and marzipan
Health foods, etc.
Ice cream
Milk
Oriental foods

<i>Article</i>	<i>For- mal</i>	<i>Infor- mal</i>	<i>Gen- uine</i>	<i>Un- satis- factory</i>
Preserves	—	4	4	—
Proprietary medicines, etc. ...	—	7	7	—
Puddings, etc.	—	8	7	1
Sausages	1	4	2	3
Soups	—	2	2	—
Sugar and sugar confectionery	—	9	7	2
Table jellies	—	3	3	—
Wines	1	5	5	1

The chocolate portion of a sample of chocolate covered cakes contained 30.6% of fat having the characteristics of a palm kernel product and no significant amount of cocoa butter. In the opinion of the analyst, chocolate should be made from ground cocoa beans, cocoa butter and sugar although there are no legal standards for chocolate in this country at present. Negotiations with the manufacturer resulted in an improved product which, when sampled subsequently, was reported to be satisfactory.

A sample of pure concentrated apple juice was found to contain only 9 mg. of vitamin C per fluid ounce instead of 30 mg. per fluid ounce claimed on the label. It transpired from the label that the bottle was at least four years old and the manufacturer accepted the return of the remaining stock. A cautionary letter was sent to the shopkeeper concerned.

A sample of soft cream cheese was found to contain 36% of milk fat whereas, in the opinion of the Public Analyst, it should have contained 45%. In support of his opinion he quoted the Food Standards Committee Report on Hard, Soft and Cream Cheese (1962), which reads, "We recommend that the regulations should contain provisions making it an offence to label or advertise soft cheeses which do not comply with the standard for cream cheese in any way so as to suggest either by statement of pictorial device, directly or by ambiguity, omission or inference, that they are cream cheese or that they contain cream." The manufacturers contended that as the recommended regulations had not been made they could not be required to comply with them but they undertook to withdraw the present description as soon as the proposed regulations are confirmed, and in the meantime they also undertook not actively to promote the sale of this product but only to supply on request.

Samples of " Milk Block " and " Milk Scotchoc " which included skimmed milk powder in the list of ingredients were analysed and the list found to be correct. In the opinion of the analyst " milk " means " whole milk " and the article described as " Milk Block " or " Milk Scotchoc " should be made from whole milk. The manufacturers agreed to amend the labels accordingly and with the help of the analyst satisfactory labels were produced.

A sample of Chicken Pickle was found to consist of a pre-packed compound food, and as such the label should have borne a list of ingredients and the name and address of the packer or registered trade mark. None of this information was on the label. The efforts made to trace the packer were unsuccessful.

A sample of dried apricots was found to be infested by live mites. An examination of the stock in the shop revealed two packets similarly infested and these were surrendered voluntarily.

A sample of strawberry flavoured syrup was reported to be of satisfactory quality but the label did not bear the name and address of the bottler or labeller or a registered trade mark. A letter was sent to the bottler who submitted a copy of a label which was being affixed to current stocks. The analyst was satisfied that the new label complied with the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order.

A sample of grape juice was found to contain a deposit consisting of yeast cells, and some fermentation had taken place as evidenced by the presence of a small amount of alcohol. In the analyst's opinion the sample was not of a satisfactory quality. A letter was sent to the importers, who in turn communicated with the manufacturers. The suggestion was made that there may have been a defect in the closure of the bottle and this possible explanation was acceptable to the analyst.

Two informal samples of sausages were reported to be deficient of meat. A formal follow-up sample was taken in one instance ; in the other the manufacturer ceased to trade in the town before a further sample could be obtained. The formal sample was also deficient of meat but the amount was so small that a cautionary letter was considered suitable in this instance.

A sample of lemon juice compound was reported to be deficient of declared vitamin C and to have a misleading label. A letter to the manufacturers resulted in the withdrawal of the product.

A packet of Instant Crisps was reported to consist of a pre-packed compound article which did not bear a list of ingredients in accordance with the Labelling of Food Order. So far the packers have not been prepared to co-operate in amending the labelling of the packet.

A sample of drinking chocolate was found to have an incorrect label in that the list of ingredients included cocoa whereas the sample was found to be made from fat-free cocoa. The manufacturer maintained that the product contained 20% cocoa butter, which was found to be true of a follow-up sample. Further samples of this product will be taken.

An " Xmas Pudding " did not have a list of ingredients placed in the order of the proportion in which they were used in the pudding, to comply with the Labelling of Food Order, 1953. The manufacturers have agreed to have suitable labels printed for the next batch of puddings.

A bottle of " Mostelle " which was described as " Pure Spanish grape juice free from alcohol and from preservatives or additions of any kind " was found to contain both alcohol and a preservative, namely, sulphur dioxide. A letter was sent to the importers who are awaiting the observations of the suppliers.

A packet of Chocolate Corn Crisps was reported to have virtually no cocoa butter in the chocolate portion and therefore consisted of a chocolate substitute. A letter was sent to the manufacturers who are having analyses made of the chocolate supplied to them before making further comment.

A sample of Mellow Cream (High Strength) was found to have an unsatisfactory label in that some of the words were not clearly legible, did not appear conspicuously and in a prominent position on the label. So far the bottlers have not agreed to amend the label.

Unsound Food.—1,554 lbs. of miscellaneous foodstuffs were surrendered voluntarily for destruction by the Local Authority as being unfit for human consumption, either by decomposition or contamination. 1,366 miscellaneous tins of canned foods, which were either blown or leaking, were also surrendered.

Several joints of lamb and two pieces of cooked beef were found in the refrigerator in a cafe kitchen during an inspection, and were considered to be unfit for human consumption. They were seized and subsequently destroyed, by order of a magistrate. As the proprietor of the business was out of the country at the time of the occurrence, proceedings were instituted against the manager under sub-section 1 of section 8 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955. The magistrates dismissed the charge as they were not satisfied that the unfit foodstuffs were in the possession of the manager. Owing to a language difficulty it had not been possible to ascertain the exact delegation of duties in the business, and the magistrates suggested that in similar circumstances in the future it would be advisable to take out summonses against all the persons concerned, leaving the bench to decide which person or persons were responsible for any offence committed.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.—468 visits were made to food premises resulting in 22 letters being sent calling attention to contraventions of the regulations. Proceedings were instituted against four shopkeepers and all were found guilty. One trader was fined £32 for several contraventions of part IV of the regulations, and for a similar offence two partners were fined £25 each. For failing to protect food from the risk of contamination by a cat, two partners in a business were fined £10 each. For placing open food on the forecourt of a shop lower than eighteen inches from the ground and not otherwise protecting it from contamination, two partners in another business were fined £3 and £1 respectively.

Food Premises subject to Food Hygiene Regulations.—

Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	68
Hotels	...	...	...	...	15
Hostels and Homes	...	...	...	...	14
Clubs	...	...	...	...	22
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	41
Church Halls	...	...	...	...	13
Places of Public Entertainment, etc.	...	...	...	...	6
Grocers	...	...	...	...	64
Bakers and Flour Confectioners	...	...	...	...	23
Sugar Confectioners	...	...	...	...	47
Fishmongers and Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	18
Butchers	...	...	...	...	41
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	31
Chemists	...	...	...	...	18
General Shops	...	...	...	...	52

Food Factories	...	...	...	...	1
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	7

Prosecutions

Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 2

For selling a layer cake containing cardboard ; fined £5.

For selling a toffee apple containing a wasp ; fined £5.

For selling a mouldy beef steak and kidney pie ; fined £5.

For selling an iced gateau containing cardboard ; fined £10.

For selling four mouldy pork pies ; fined £15.

For selling a mouldy malt loaf ; dismissed.

For selling a packet of mouldy sausage rolls ; two partners fined £5 each.

Leamington Corporation Act, 1952—Section 139.—This section enables the Local Authority to require the registration of food hawkers and their premises. Two applications were received for registration and both were approved.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1962.—Fewer offences were observed than in previous years and it was only necessary to warn by letter two shopkeepers for failing to mark imported apples and tomatoes, and two others for failing to mark imported tomatoes.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1960 AND 1963

72 valid dealers' (pre-packed milk) licences were in operation at the commencement of the year and 12 additional licences were issued during the same period. A dealer's (pasteuriser's) licence issued in 1961 was cancelled as the premises concerned had ceased to be used for pasteurisation.

Samples of milk were taken regularly for bacteriological examination and the results are set out below :—

Designation	No.	Nature of Tests	Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised	66	Phosphatase	66	—	—
		Methylene Blue	66	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	104	Phosphatase	104	—	—
		Methylene Blue	97	6	1
Tuberculin Tested	10	Methylene Blue	7	3	—
Sterilised	14	Turbidity	14	—	—

Nine samples failed to pass the methylene blue test and these failures resulted in notices being served on three dealers under sub-section 2 of section 44 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, informing them that, in the event of further failure to comply with the conditions of their licences within twelve months, they would be liable to prosecution. One of the dealers, who was selling raw tuberculin tested milk from a vending machine, has changed to pasteurised tuberculin tested milk and has had no further trouble. One of the other dealers concerned who was using a vending machine, has ceased to use it for the sale of milk. The third dealer has given up trading in the town.

ICE-CREAM

There are four premises registered for the manufacture, sale and storage of ice-cream, but only three are still in use. In addition there are 150 premises registered for sale and storage only.

Results of the bacteriological examination of 124 samples of ice-cream were as follows :—

Grade I	...	...	...	89
Grade II	...	...	...	19
Grade III	...	...	...	13
Grade IV	...	...	...	3

Six of the grade III samples and one of the grade IV samples were taken from itinerant traders from other districts. Fullest co-operation was received from the districts concerned and in one instance contamination from a leaking cooler was discovered. Once again difficulty was experienced with foreign-born traders from whom three of the grade III samples and two of the grade IV samples were taken. In one instance the language barrier proved insuperable, and the ice cream supplier discontinued supplies. The remaining four grade III samples presented something of a problem as they were all supplied by different national distributors, were all wrapped, were supposed to be parts of recent deliveries and were stored in reasonable conditions. Follow-up samples revealed no further trouble.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Enforcement of the provisions of this Act rests with two bodies, the Ministry of Labour and the Local Authority, there being well-defined duties shared by H.M. Inspector of Factories and by Public Health Inspectors.

For the purposes of the Act, factories are classified as follows:—

- (i) factories where mechanical power is not used,
- (ii) factories where mechanical power is used,
- (iii) other premises, such as sites of building operations, etc.

The following tables detail the work done by the Public Health Inspectors during the year: —

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspections	Written notices
Factories Class (i)	17	4	—
Factories Class (ii)	211	16	2
Other premises	25	11	1
Total	253	31	3

2. DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :— Unsuitable or Defective	10	6	—

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Subject to specified conditions, licences may be granted to suitable persons to keep pet shops. Two applications were received for licences and both were granted.

RODENT CONTROL

	Private	Business	Council	Others
Properties inspected	274	46	4	57
Treatments	76	—	4	—
Re-treatments	8	—	17	—
Number of visits	605	71	84	65

The sewers were treated twice during the year. During the first treatment which commenced in February, 861 manholes were baited, and in the second treatment which commenced in July, 1,016 manholes were baited.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Rooms disinfected	...	...	14
Books disinfected	...	...	164
Bundles of clothing disinfected	...	...	6
Rooms disinfested	...	...	33
Wasps nests destroyed	...	...	51

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area, and where no person can be found who is willing or responsible to undertake the burial or cremation, is laid on the local authority by this Act. One person was buried in such circumstances during the year.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Applications for prior approval

Eleven applications were received for prior approval of new boiler installations. Five were approved as submitted, four were approved after the proposed chimney heights had been increased, one was approved after a change of fuel, and one was refused as the installation had been substantially completed before the application was received. This application was in respect of an installation which would have received prior approval if the application had been made at the proper time.

Notification of proposal to install a furnace

Three notifications were received of which two were satisfactory and the third was satisfactory after an increase in chimney height had been negotiated.

Instruments

Information regarding atmospheric pollution is obtained from the following instruments :

- (1) A deposit gauge in Victoria Park ;
- (2) 4 lead dioxide instruments sited in Victoria Park, Leamington Cemetery, Milverton Cemetery and Cubbington Pumping Station ;

- (3) 4 daily volumetric instruments situated at Mid-Warwickshire College of Further Education, 38 Holly Walk, Gasworks Laboratory and Campion Terrace Pumping Station.

Three of the volumetric instruments measure smoke and sulphur dioxide and the latter measures smoke only. The information obtained from these instruments during the last five years is summarised in the following graphs :

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Fifteen complaints about noise were received, one more than in the previous year and mostly of a similar character. All were dealt with without recourse to statutory action except one to which so far no solution has been found.

Summary of complaints received :—

Factory machinery	...	...	...	...	4
Railway diesel locomotive	...	...	...	...	2
Dance Band	...	...	...	...	1
Radio and T.V.	...	...	...	...	1
Chimes on Ice-cream vehicles	...	...	...	...	4
Slamming of car and lorry doors	...	...	...	...	2
Untraceable	...	...	...	...	1

Complaints of excessive noise from radio and television sets, slamming of car and lorry doors, and chimes from ice-cream vehicles, were referred to the Police. The practice of allowing a diesel locomotive to stand idling on a track close to nearby houses whilst its motor warmed up, in the early hours of the morning, gave rise to complaints from the residents. Representations to the railway department concerned resulted in a reduction of the nuisance to a tolerable level.

The cause of a complaint of a mysterious “ bumping ” or “ pumping ” noise, heard only in one part of semi-detached houses in an exclusively residential district, has so far not been traced and investigations are still being made.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

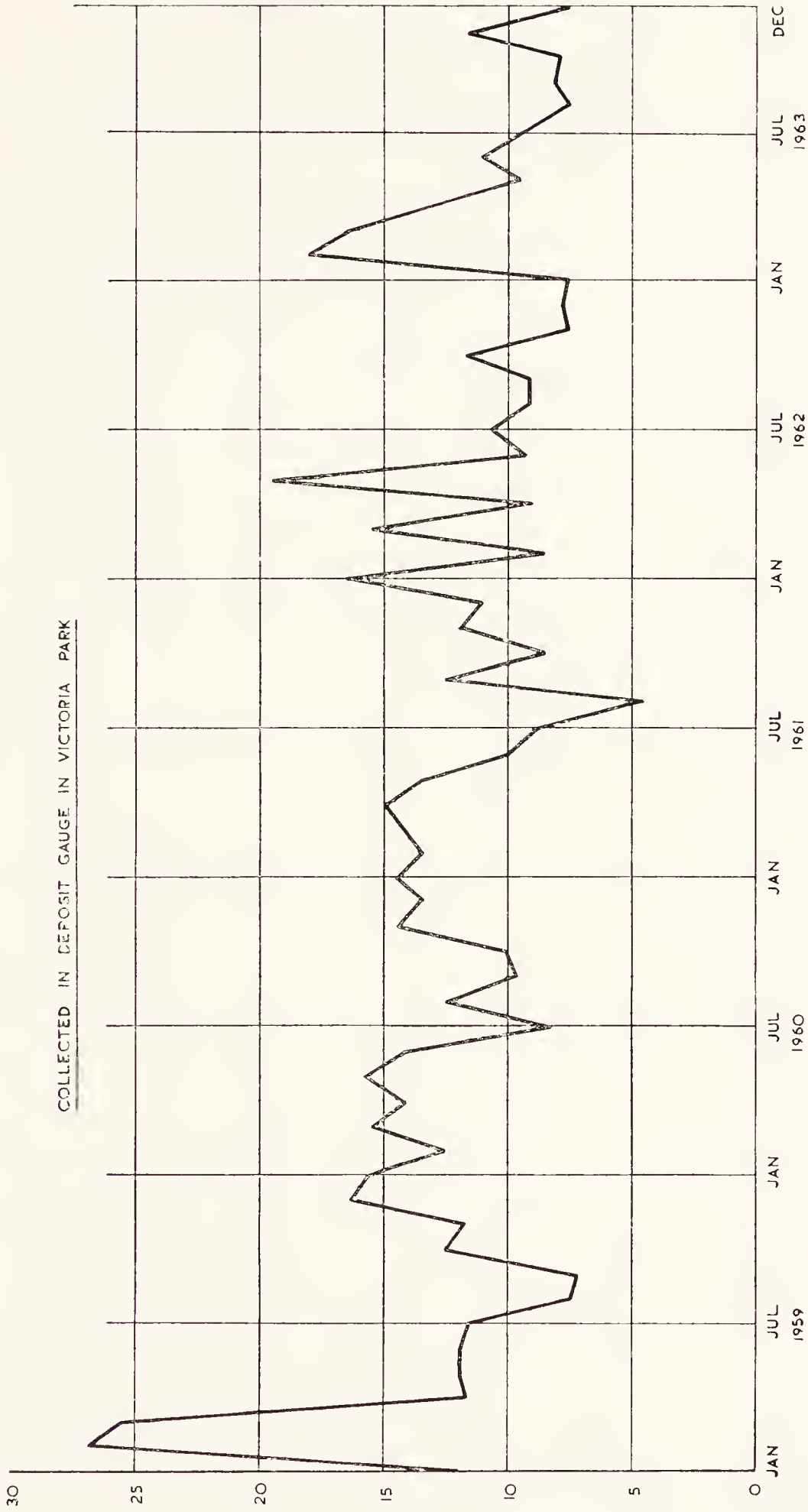
Summary of observations made :—

Weekly half-holiday	...	...	...	...	13
Closing hours	...	...	...	...	14
Sunday trading	...	...	...	...	9

DEPOSITED MATTER

MONTHLY RECORD OF SOLID MATTER

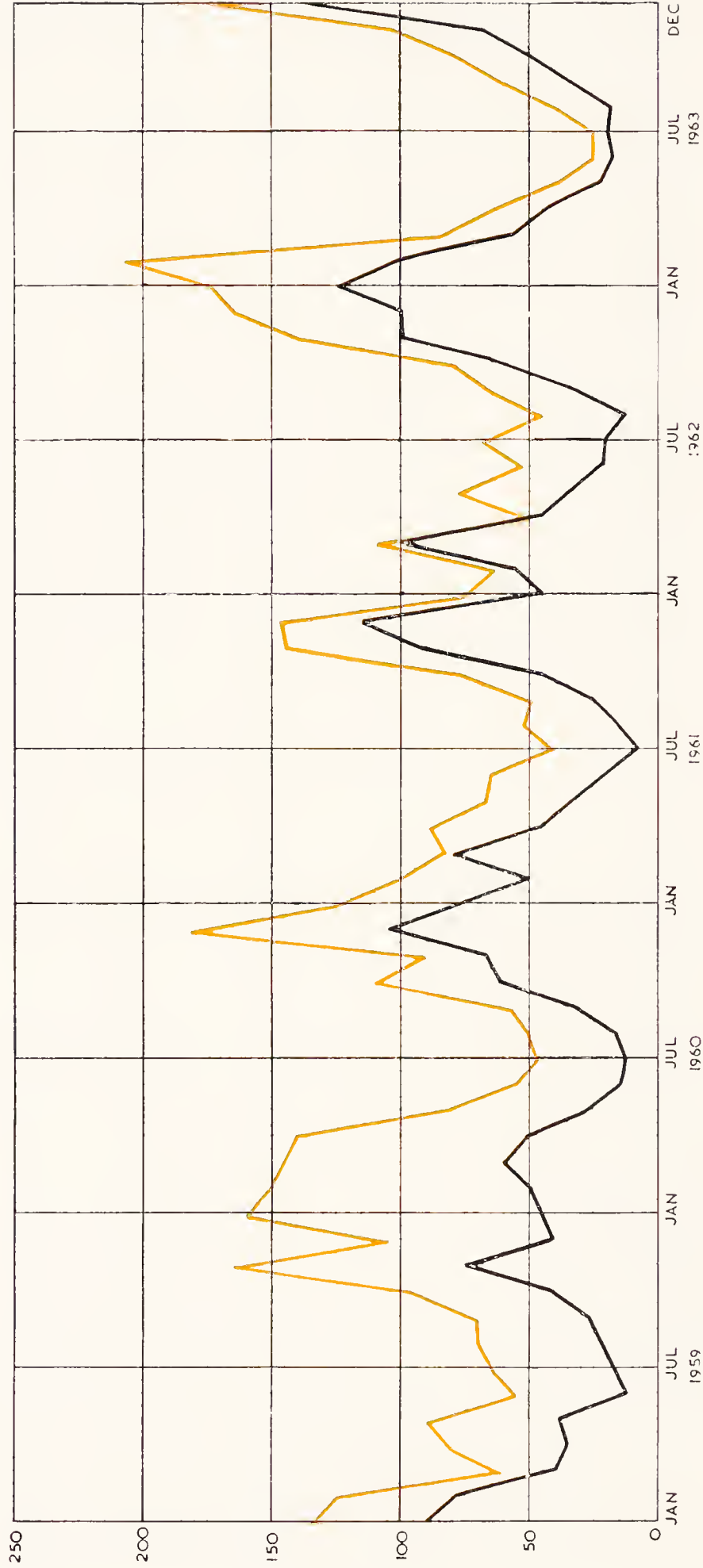
IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE



SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE

AVERAGE OF DAILY CONCENTRATIONS OF SMOKE AND
SULPHUR DIOXIDE IN MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METRE
AT MID WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

— SMOKE
— SULPHUR DIOXIDE

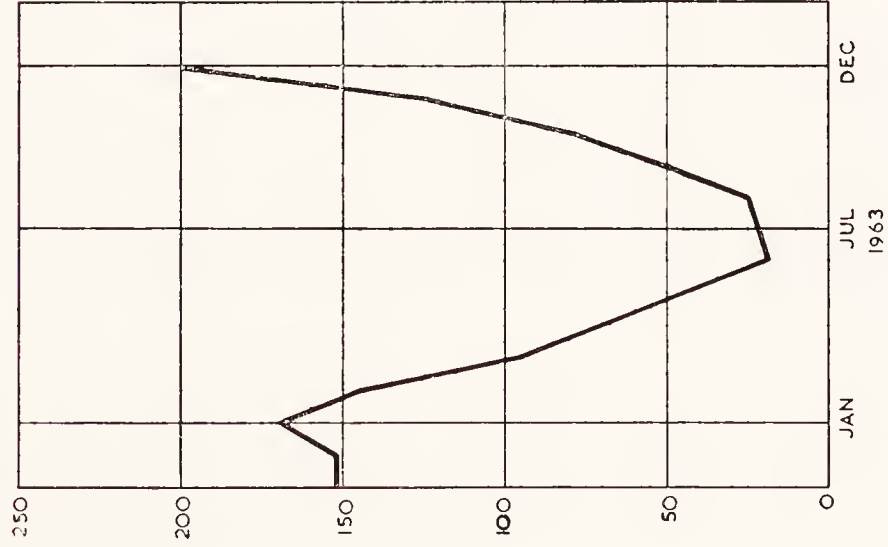


SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE

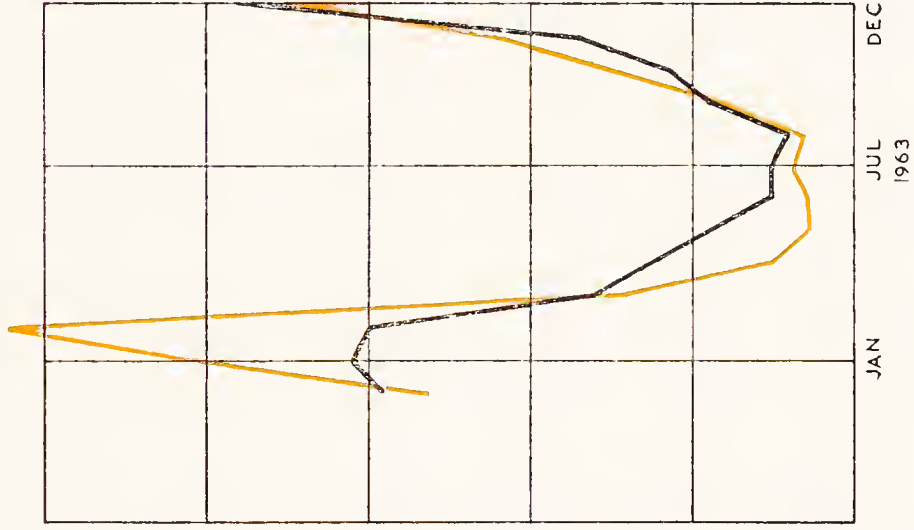
AVERAGE OF DAILY CONCENTRATION OF SMOKE AND
SULPHUR DIOXIDE IN MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METRE

— SMOKE — SULPHUR DIOXIDE

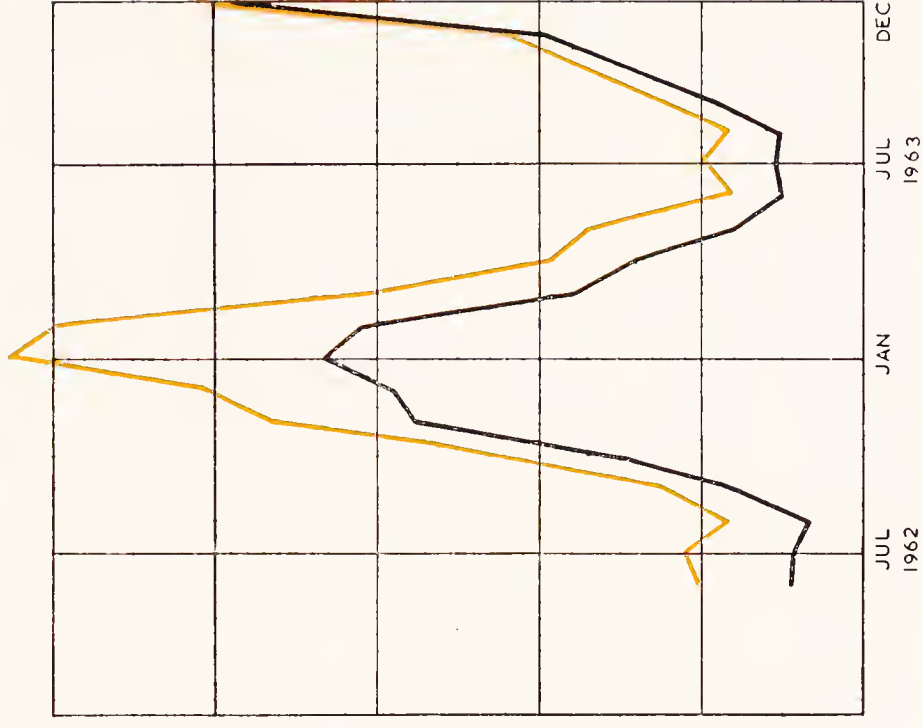
AT WATERWORKS, CAMPION TERRACE



AT GASWORKS LABORATORY



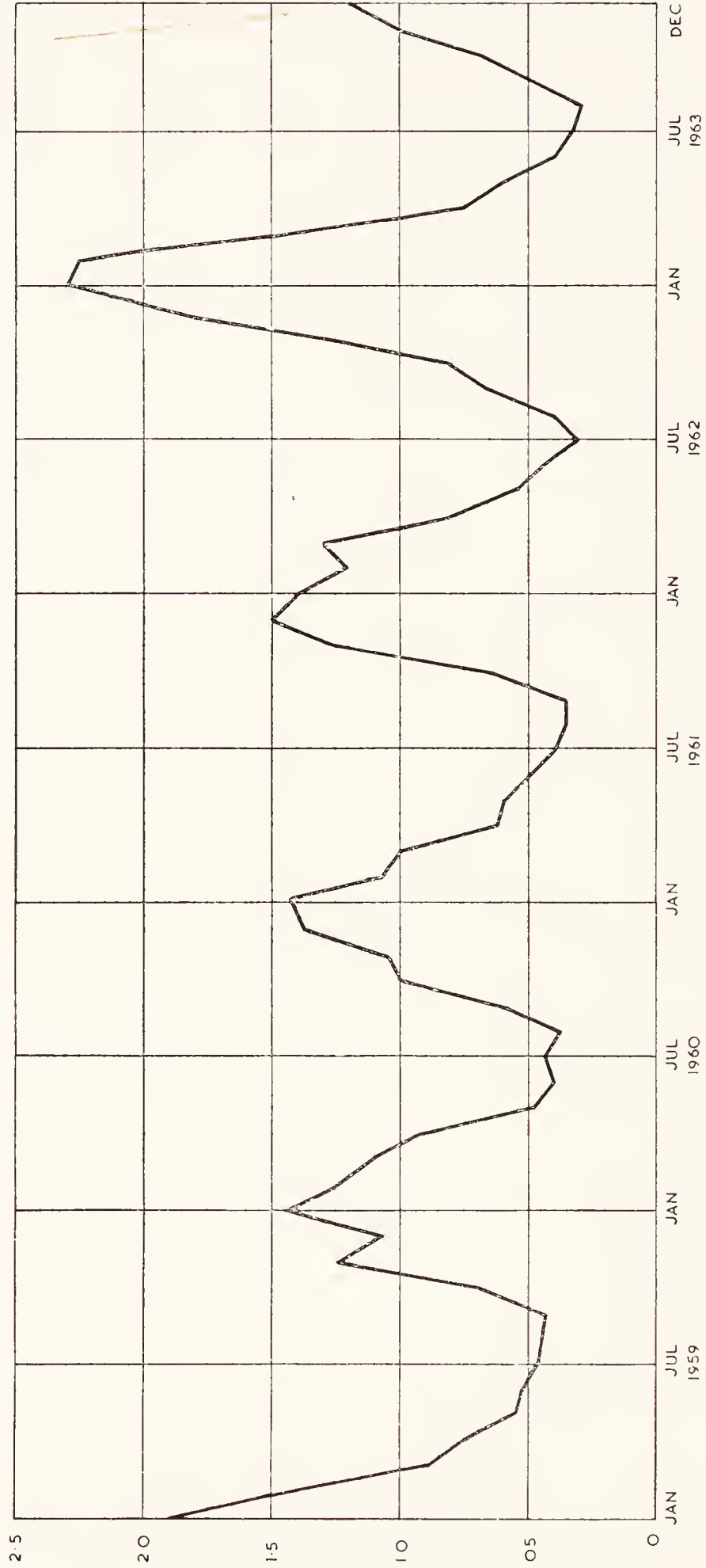
AT 38 HOLLY WALK



ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR

MEAN OF DAILY AVERAGE IN MILLIGRAMS OF SO_3
COLLECTED BY 100sq. cms. OF BATCH A, PbO_2
AT FOUR STATIONS

LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD



As in previous years the observed offences most concerned illegal trading on Sundays and the weekly half-holiday. Offenders were warned verbally and by letter. A number of offenders were shopkeepers new to the town who were unaware of the local Order which names Thursday (with the alternative of Saturday) as the statutory weekly half-holiday.

A few enquiries were received as to the possibility of changing the weekly half-holiday from Thursday to Monday but no request was made for an extension of the statutory closing hours. As in previous years, no request was made to the Council for the suspension of the general closing hours during the Christmas period.

ADMINISTRATION

For the second year in succession there were no staff changes. Early in the year the Health Committee decided to press for the appointment of an additional inspector in order that greater attention could be paid to the increasing number of multi-occupied houses without neglecting regular routine inspection of other premises. Pending a final decision by the Finance Committee no appointment had been made by the end of the year.

The proposed move to other office accommodation has not yet been effected.

I would like to conclude this report by thanking everyone concerned for their continued advice and support, particularly the following : the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. F. D. M. Livingstone and his staff ; the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. M. Wood and members of the Health Committee ; the Public Analysts, Mr. R. K. Chalmers and Mr. C. N. Grange ; the Analyst to the Warwickshire Clean Air Council, Mr. N. M. Lewis ; fellow officers in other departments and last, but not least, all the members of my own staff.

A. J. SMITH

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Borough Shops Act Inspector.

TABLE I.
BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1963
AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1954	37,800	640	16.2	16	25.0	455	12.0
1955	37,950	697	18.4	19	27.2	495	12.1
1956	38,220	793	20.7	18	22.6	456	12.0
1957	38,940	767	19.4	17	23.6	451	11.6
1958	39,220	825	21.0	19	23.0	433	11.0
1959	39,450	827	21.0	22	26.6	490	12.4
1960	40,060	847	20.8	11	13.0	477	11.7
1961	42,500	877	20.6	23	26.2	496	11.7
1962	42,950	934	21.7	15	18.2	539	12.5
1963	43,560	936	21.4	16	17.1	544	12.5

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1963.
ENGLAND AND WALES.
Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1963.
(Provisional Figures).

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.						
		Live Births.	Still Births per 1,000 Births.		Deaths under 1,000 Births	
England and Wales	18.2	17.2	12.2	21.1

TABLE II.

BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
THE YEAR 1963.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox									
Plague									
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)									
Erysipelas	1					1			
Scarlet Fever									
Typhus Fever	1					1			1
Enteric Fever									
Typhoid Fever	5		2		1	1	1		5
Pneumonia									
Malaria									
Dysentery	18		3	6		3	1		
Puerperal Pyrexia	25				13	12			
Meningococcal Infection									
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)									
Whooping Cough	17	5	8	4					
Encephalitis Lethargica	1			1					
Ophthalmia Neonatorum									
Measles	435	8	231	195	1				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9				7		2		
Other forms of Tuberculosis	8				2	4	2		
Food Poisoning	26	2	6	3	2	9	4		
Totals	541	15	250	209	26	31	10	—	6

TABLE III.
BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1963.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
2 Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease... ..	1	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	18	1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	32	25
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	4	—
16 Diabetes	—	4
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	29	53
18 Coronary disease, angina	66	39
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	3
20 Other heart disease	19	46
21 Other circulatory disease	18	18
22 Influenza	2	—
23 Pneumonia	17	14
24 Bronchitis... ..	18	9
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	1	2
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	4	2
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	2	1
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	—	3
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	24	19
33 Motor vehicle accidents	6	—
34 All other accidents	4	8
35 Suicide	7	1
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All causes	282	262

